



Conservation Conversation



Inside this issue:

2

2

Marcellus Shale/

Legislative Update

2012 Envirothon Dates

| _ | M_{\perp} | |
|-----------|-------------|---|
| \bigcup | Details on | 7 |
| | Page 4-5 | |
| _ [| M | |

SEEDLING SALE ISSUE: Orders due 03/28/2012

Conservation Awards

Cooperating Conservation Farmer: The 2011 recipient of the District's Cooperating



Conservation
Farmer Award
was awarded to
Michael (Mike)
Marquardt,
Spring Mills,
PA. The crop
and beef farm
operates over
500 acres and
two facilities in
Gregg Town-

ship, Muddy Creek (Penns Creek) Watershed. Mike has participated in a number of conservation programs through the USDA, NRCS, and FSA. Some of the programs include: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Program (CBWI), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and Resource Enhancement Program (REAP). In the early 90's Mike started off on the right foot with implementing contour strip cropping, and several grassed waterways. In 2005 with the assistance of CREP, Mike planted (20 acres) of forested stream buffers along Muddy Creek, and (25 acres) of highly erodible fields in permanent grass cover. Additional Best Management Practices funded through REAP & CBWI include: A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Roof Run-Off Management, closed old waste impoundment lagoon, added a new manure storage and transfer system, implemented a heavy use area protection in barn-yard, and incorporated over 350 acres in No-Till and cover crops.

Poster Contest 3

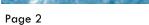
District Board Meeting 3 Schedule for 2012

SEEDLING SALE 4-5

Mission Statement

The Centre County Conservation District is a committed, professional agency functioning as the primary local source of assistance to all individuals and organizations who benefit from the county's natural resources that we collectively strive to sustain and improve.

Two additional awards were presented at the Annual Farm City Banquet. The District administers the Chapter 102, Soil Erosion and Sediment pollution Control Program, A Regulatory program that requires the design of an Erosion Control Plan, and the implementation of BMP's, or Best Management Practices during construction. Each year, the Conservation District presents the <u>Clean Streams Award</u> to the individual, company, or organization that best demonstrates the initiative to excel in the area of soil erosion control. This year, the District presented this award to <u>Michael Pratt</u> from Hollidaysburg, PA. The <u>Watershed Stewardship Award</u> was presented to <u>Centre County Chapter of the PA. Senior Environmental Corps. At Clearwater Conservancy.</u> This organization is made up of teams of senior-citizens who gather and publish data on water quality in Centre County. The PaSEC organization celebrated 10 years in 2011.



Marcellus Shale Legislative Update:

On February 13th Governor Corbett signed the Marcellus Shale Regulatory and Impact Fee Legislation (HB 1950). The new law addresses a wide variety of issues related to the exploration, development and regulation of shale gas in the Commonwealth and provides the opportunity for counties to impose and collect "impact fees". A new fund administered by the Public Utility Commission (PUC), the Unconventional Gas Well Fund (UGWF), is created to collect and distribute these new revenues. Local impact fees deposited in the UGWF are estimated to be \$180 million in 2011 and increase to more than \$350 million in 2015. conservation districts will collectively receive \$2.5 million in 2011, \$5 million in 2012, and \$7.5 million in 2013 and beyond from the UGWF. Starting in 2013, the \$7.5 million allocation will then be adjusted each year by the Consumer Price Index. The district funding is to be split with one-half distributed equally to all 66 districts to be used consistent with provisions of the Conservation District Law, and the other half distributed by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) consistent with the Commission's Conservation District Fund Allocation Program Statement of Pol-



icy. The life of this funding is 15 years. Counties can also allocate a portion of their local impact fee revenues to conservation districts if they choose.

The Governor's Office, in cooperation with state agencies, county and local governments, are now beginning to determine how to implement the new law (174 pages of legislative text). County governments with impacts from unconventional gas well development must decide if they will impose these new fees, and the PUC must establish the UGWF and develop policies regarding its management and distribution of funds. The first round of fee revenue must be submitted to the PUC in September 2012. Not withstanding any legal challenges or other delays, the initial distribution funds to eligible entities such as conservation districts is anticipated in late 2012 or early 2013. the priorities and policies for the distribution of UGWF to districts by the SCC, the Commission plans on working collectively with the Conservation District Managers Advisory Committee (CDMAC) over the next several months to develop recommendations for the Commission to consider this summer.

National Fish & Wildlife Grant **Awarded**

The Centre County Conservation District has received confirmation from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that the grant proposal the District submitted back in 2011, has been approved. The District was awarded a \$75,000 grant to support the Centre County Agricultural BMP Implementation Program. This grant is provided on the condition that these funds will be matched by \$100,135 in partners' contributions, cash and in-kind.

The grant funds will cover the installation of Best Management Practices to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from three Amish farms and one English farm located in the Penns Valley Watershed. The NFWF grant project will begin this spring and is projected to wrap up March 1, 2014.

Envirothon 2012: County, State, and Canon

Centre County Envirothon

Wednesday

May 09, 2012

Bald Eagle State Park

PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

May 22-23, 2012

University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, PA

CANON ENVIROTHON

July 22-27, 2012

Susquehanna University Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania



2012 CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

Your *class/group/child* is invited to participate in the annual conservation poster contest. This is your chance to help <u>every</u> student become active in today's pursuit for a sustainable environment - while being creative and having fun.

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' (PACD) Education and Youth Committee has chosen the following theme:



>Forward entries to:

Centre County Conservation District

414 Holmes Avenue, Suite 4 Bellefonte, PA 16823

Connecting with NACD's 2012 education materials, the 2012 Poster Contest theme is "Soil to Spoon." The contest helps teach students about where their food comes from, highlighting the important role of soils. The annual poster contest provides K-sixth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water, and related natural resource issues through art.

The Centre County Conservation District sponsors the annual poster contest at the county level. The divisions are: K-1, 2-3, and 4-6. All first, second, and third place winners will receive a certificate and cash prize, and posters will be displayed in the lobby of the Willowbank Building. First place winners will be sent to PACD for the *state* competition in July. State winners will be sent to the National Association of Conservation Districts ("NACD") for the *national* competition.

The deadline to submit posters to the Conservation District is Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

Winners will be announced on or around June 1, 2012.

For additional information contact Joy at 355-6817 or <u>imteeter@co.centre.pa.us</u>

2012 District Meeting Schedule

District meetings are open to the public and held on the second Wednesday of every month (Excluding January Meeting) in Room 146 of the Willowbank Building, Bellefonte.

In November, we host the Annual Farm City Banquet held at New Hope Lutheran Church, Spring Mills



Wednesday, February 08, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 09, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 08, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14, 7:30p.m.

Wednesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.



2012 SEEDLING SALE—TREE DESCRIPTIONS

2012 Seedling Sale – Tree Descriptions

<u>Colorado Blue Spruce</u> – Fine ornamental, timber and pulp tree. The habit of growth of the spruce is upright, pyramidal. They can be grown in almost any well-drained soil with sufficient moisture. They are shallow rooted and easily transplanted. Dense foliage makes them useful as hedges and windbreaks.

Concolor Fir – One of the most beautiful ornamental evergreens with flat, varying soft green needles 1-1/2" to 2" long, bearing cones 3" to 5" long at maturity. A very hardy tree growing in a variety of well drained soils, standing dryness and high temperatures.

<u>Canadian Hemlock</u> – This handsome and graceful evergreen is ideal for screening, groupings, and plantings. May be sheared to any height or shape and likes full sun to light shade. A medium growth rate. The hemlock provides excellent cover for deer and songbirds. Nesting site for several bird species.

Norway Spruce-This graceful pyramidal has sharp, shiny, dark green needles. Beautiful spreading branches with drooping twigs. An extremely hardy tree that is successful under most soil conditions. Fast growth makes the spruce ideal for timber.

Eastern White Pine – A majestic evergreen beauty when planted as a single specimen tree, this very hardy pine grows stately and gracefully tall. Needles are soft and bluish-green in color. Bark is thin, smooth and greenish brown, turning darker as trees mature. With adequate moisture, growth can be 12-18" per year. Ideal shade, windbreaks and appealing Christmas Trees.

<u>Sugar Maple</u> - An attractive dual purpose maple, rounded head with dense green foliage having serrated three to five lobed leaves. Mature trees produce sap in the spring used for maple syrup. The smooth silvery bark becomes darker as tree ages.

<u>American Redbud</u> -A small flat-topped tree, producing pink blooms on bare stems in early spring. Foliage is large and heart shaped, changing to yellow in the fall. Does well in protected locations.

<u>Black Cherry</u>— Deciduous tree commonly called <u>"Wild Black Cherry".</u> Long shiny leaves with bark that resembles that of birch for the first decade. When mature, bark turns to a very broken, dark grey to black bark. The fruit it bitter and readily eaten by birds.

Flowering White Dogwood- Most popular of native flowering trees. Covered with white petaled flowers in early spring, crimson leaves and red berries in the fall.

FRUIT TREE DESCRIPTIONS

HONEYCRISP: Apple (1 of 2) – This crisp, juicy, sweet-tart apple has a rich flavor. This fruit is mostly orange-red with a yellow background, matures 10 days before Red Delicious and stores well. Outstanding winter hardiness, late blooming and is moderately resistant to apple scab.

<u>ULTIMA GALA: Apple (2 of 2)</u> – This apple variety has 90-100% red color with a strong stripe. With its early and high color this Gala can be picked at proper maturity for best possible storage and flavor retention. Good for eating and baking. Semi-dwarf (mature height 15-20')

BARTLETT: Pear— A large heavy bearing variety with excellent quality. Considered one of the choicest canning varieties. Ripens in late August and a favorite for all uses.

REDHAVEN: Peach - Tree is vigorous, very bud hardy and productive. Fruit is medium-sized and colors to a brilliant red. One of the best commercial varieties. Ripens around August 1 in southern PA.

<u>DANUBE: Tart Cherry</u> – A new tart cherry cultivar for the fresh market. Fruit is dark red, medium to large, and sweeter than Montmorency. Trees are self fertile, very productive, but more susceptible to winter injury.

STANLEY: Plum - A fine prune-type plum with excellent quality suited for both home use and processing. Fruit is large in size with dark blue skin. Flesh is greenish-yellow, juicy and fine grained. The tree is early bearing and a good pollinizer for other varieties.

2012 Seedling Sale

**Proceeds are used to sponsor

Environmental Education Programs in Centre County **

2012 Tree Seedling Sale Order Form

Order Deadline DATE March 28, 2012

View Tree Descriptions online at:

www.co.centre.pa.us/conservation

Please complete the order form and send with your payment to: <u>Centre County Conservation</u> <u>District</u>, 414 Holmes Avenue, Suite #4, Bellefonte, PA 16823

| Name |
|----------------|
| Address |
| |
| Town/State/Zip |
| Phone |

Seedling Pickup is Friday April 27
from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM and Saturday April 28 from 9:00 AM until
11:00 AM at the Centre County Grange
Fair Grounds in Centre Hall, PA.

<u>Payment must accompany order.</u> Orders will be prepackaged.

You will receive a reminder notice approximately two weeks prior to the date you are to pick up your order.

The Conservation District and seedling suppliers cannot guarantee the success rate of the seedlings. Our seedlings will be healthy when picked up, but no guarantees can be made after the pick up date.

| SUBTOTAL SALES | | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| 6% SALES TAX | | | | |
| TOTAL AMOUNT | | | | |
| Check # | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

| Seedlings: (10/bundle) | Cost per Bundle of 10 | # of Bundles | Cost for 100 | Total |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Colorado Blue Spruce 3 yr. seedling—10-18" | \$10.50 | | \$84.00 | |
| Concolor Fir 2 yr. seedling-12-18" | \$10.50 | | \$84.00 | |
| Canadian Hemlock 3 yr. seedling–7-14" | \$7.50 | | \$60.00 | |
| Norway Spruce 3 yr. seedling—12-24" | \$7.50 | | \$60.00 | |
| Eastern White Pine 3 yr. seedling 8-16" | \$7.50 | | \$60.00 | |
| Sugar Maple 12-18" | \$12.00 | | \$96.00 | |
| American Redbud 12-18" | \$13.50 | | \$108.00 | |
| Wild Black Cherry 12-18" | \$12.00 | | \$96.00 | |
| White Flowering Dogwood 18-24" | \$12.00 | | \$96.00 | |

| Species (Semi-dwarf) FRUIT TREES | Price per pkg or tree | # Pkgs. | Total |
|---|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| 1 each for pollination Apple: Honeycrisp Ultima Gala | \$37.00 | | |
| PEAR: • Bartlett | \$18.00 | | |
| PEACH • Redhaven | \$16.00 | | |
| TART CHERRY • Danube | \$20.00 | | |
| PLUM • Stanley | 20.00 | | |

CENTRE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

414 Holmes Avenue, Suite #4 Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814-355-6817 Fax: 814-355-8696

E-mail: RESWEITZ@CO.CENTRE.PA.US

Website:

www.co.centre.pa.us/conservation



DISTRICT STAFF

Robert E. Sweitzer, District Manager
Sue Kauffman, Dept. Clerk III
John Wataha, Agriculture Conservation/
Nutrient Management Technician
Ann Donovan, Watershed Specialist/
Education Coordinator
Daina Beckstrand, CBP/NM Technician

E&S STAFF

Jim Coslo Jr., Resource Conservation
Supervisor
Mike Philippe, Resource Conservation
Coordinator II
Joy Teeter, Department Clerk I

USDA-Natural Resource Conservation

Service (NRCS)

(570) 726-3196 or (814) 355-2447 Scott D. Heckman, Supervisory District Conservationist

Bryan Conklin, Engineering Technician Amanda Coleman, Program Assistant

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Donn Fetterolf, Chair

Dr. Robert Shannon, Vice-Chair

Steven G. Dershem, Commissioner

Tom Boldin

Martin Melville

James Walizer

Kaleb Wolfe

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Al Stewart Bruce Snyder
Brian Burger Susan Buda

C. Allen Ishler

CENTRE CO. RECYCLING HOTLINE

(814) 238-6649

2012 SEEDLING SALE ORDER FORM ENCLOSED

Centre County Conservation District 414 Holmes Avenue Suite #4 Bellefonte, PA 16823



Printed on Recycled Paper

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, PA
Permit No. 41